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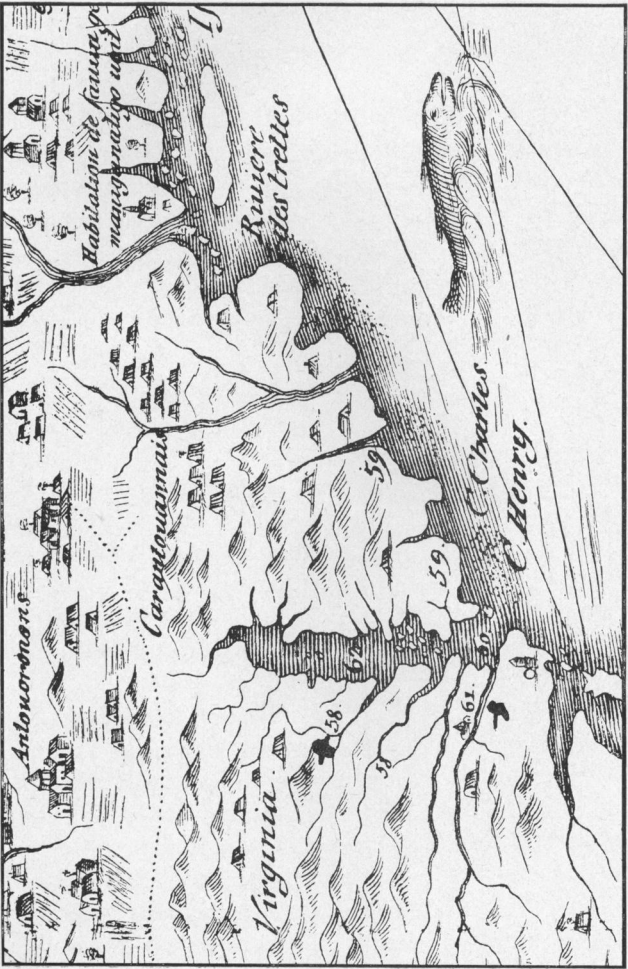
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SECTION OF CHAMPLAIN'S MAP.

## SOME VALLEY NOTES

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(Contributed by Charles E. Kemper, Staunton, Va.)

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[Mr. Kemper, the well-known authority on the history of the Valley of Virginia, has contributed a number of notes from the records of Augusta County and other sources, which treat of various phases of Valley history. They include notices of early maps, the Indians, the Indian Road, early settlements, military service of Augusta county men, &c.]

### THE CHAMPLAIN MAP, 1632.

This map is based upon the expedition of Samuel Champlain into northwestern New York in 1609, and into Western New York in 1616. The map was made by Champlain in 1632 and appears in Volume 3, *Documentary History of the State of New York* (Albany 1850), facing the title page.

In Champlain's report there is a "table of remarkable places" denoted by numbers, which are indicated by corresponding numbers on the map.

No. 61 shows Jamestown, Va., and No. 58 shows the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers at the present Harpers Ferry in West Virginia and the sources of these rivers are clearly delineated. The Shenandoah Valley is shown to the southwest from Harpers Ferry, certainly to the present Port Republic in Rockingham County, Va. Since Champlain never visited Virginia in person, it seems almost certain that the Virginia section of this map was based upon the explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries who visited Jamestown, Va., at a considerable period before 1632, or upon the explorations of Missionaries of the same faith who accompanied expeditions of the Iroquois Indians of New York, who afterwards con-

quered the Shenandoah Valley Indians about 1674. It will be observed that the sources of the James River in the Virginia Mountains are also clearly delineated upon this map.

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### THE SHENANDOAH RIVER

The Shenandoah River, whose course in part is so well and clearly delineated on the map of Louis Michell (see this Magazine, Jan., 1921), does not have its source near "Roanoke River", as stated in the letter of Governor Gooch (1729) which appears in the October Number, 1920, of this Magazine.

Middle River has its source near Summerdean, Augusta county, Va., and it is the master stream of the Shenandoah system, a geological fact not generally known. In the last mile of its course, Middle River flows in a straight line almost due east, with very little fall. On the line between Augusta and Rockingham counties, it is joined by the North River, flowing almost due south, with considerable fall in the last two miles of its course. After the rivers join, the united streams are called North River, but its course is that of Middle River, almost due east to Port Republic. In times of great flood, North River, owing to its greater fall, flows directly across and dams up Middle River, which becomes a placid lake over the bottoms of the old Craig estate. At Port Republic in Rockingham County, Va., these united rivers are joined by South River and the south branch of the Shenandoah, the main river of the system, is formed, and its course is still that of Middle River, almost due east. Authorities differ as to the meaning of Shenandoah, but it is certain that the river was named by the Iroquois Indians of New York.

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### INDIANS

The historians of the Valley who state without giving authorities that the country was an Indian Hunting Ground when

the first white settlements were made there have stated the fact correctly.

On July 6, 1721, Sir William Keith, Governor of Pennsylvania, and some of the Council of that Province, held a conference with the Conestoga Indians and in addressing them used this language: "The Governor of Virginia expects that you will not hunt within the great mountains on the other side of Potowmeck (Potomac) River, being it is a small tract of land which he keeps for the Virginia Indians to hunt in".

Governor Keith had just returned from a conference with Gov. Spottswood at Williamsburg, Va., and it is clear that the Valley, although a few small Indian settlements existed here and there, was in 1721, a hunting ground reserved for the Indians of Eastern Virginia. See Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania, Vol. 3, page 118.

Although it is quite certain that the Five Nations of Indians of New York completed their conquest of the Shenandoah Valley Indians about 1674, it is equally certain that a few Indians continued to reside permanently in the Valley after that period.

Louis Michell, the Swiss Explorer, found some Indians living in the Valley in 1706-7, as shown in the January number, 1921, of this Magazine.

In 1701, the Ganawese and Shawnee Indians were living in the region near the head of the Potomac. See *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania*, Vol. 2, page 9.

Kercheval states in his "History of the Valley" that in 1729 the Senedo Indians were living in the general neighborhood of present Riverton and Front Royal, in the present county of Warren, Virginia.

Dr. W. J. Hinkie, in his admirable article, "The German Element in Madison County, Va.," which is printed in Volume 14 of this Magazine, shows that some Indians resided forty miles to the west of the German settlement made in Madison county, Va., in 1725. This was in 1728, and the Indian settlement mentioned in Dr. Hinkie's article was evidently in the present county of Page, southwest of Luray.

This is also confirmed by Kercheval, who gives an interesting

account of the Indian mounds in Page county, and still further and scientifically confirmed by Fowke in his "Archaeological Researches in Potomac Valley", who gives a full account of his explorations of various large Indian mounds in the present county of Page, Va.

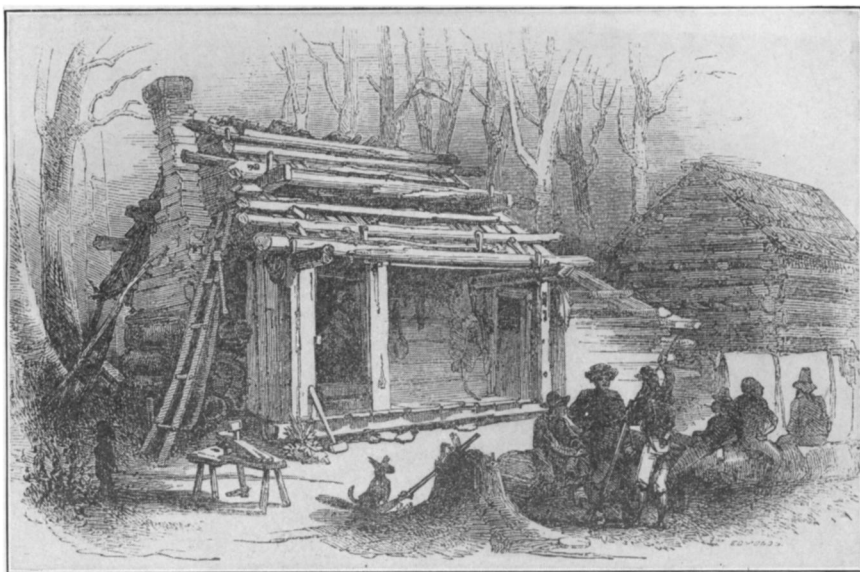
As Michell did not go further to the southwest than present Edinburg, in the present Shenandoah county, Virginia, the Indians he met with were evidently the Senedo tribes mentioned by Kercheval. It may therefore be concluded that in addition to the Shawnee settlement at present Winchester, Va., in 1731, when the whites first settled in that locality, there were also permanent Indian settlements in the sections mentioned above as late as 1728-30. There is also some evidence tending to show that before the permanent removal of the Tuscarora Indians to New York in 1714, a portion of the tribe who fled northward after their overthrow at the Battle of Snow Hill, North Carolina, in 1713, resided for a time in the northern end of the Valley, an echo of which is still to be found in the name, Tuscarora Creek, a stream in the present county of Berkeley, West Virginia.

Before the Treaty of Albany (1722), the eastern portion of Virginia was frequently the scene of murders and depredations committed by the Five Nation Indians of New York.

In 1717, Fort Christiania in present Brunswick county was attacked by a party of eighteen Indians belonging to these tribes, who killed six men on the spot and captured two others—a man and a woman. At that time, some of the Virginia Saponi Indians were domiciled at this fort and the persons killed and captured doubtless belonged to that tribe.

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The question has been raised as to whether the first settlers at Jamestown built log cabins, because it was a form of house unfamiliar to Englishmen. Whatever may be the truth as to this, there is no doubt that at a very early date the cabin became almost universally the home of the pioneers, and continued to be used for various purposes long after the pioneer period. It was so familiar that it became known as the "Virginia house". There were various types of log cabins which were used throughout the Colony, and the types were but little changed at a later period. The house drawn by D. H. Strother (*Porte Crayon*) was doubtless much like the crude buildings erected by many of the first settlers, when the early Moravian missionaries found in them only corn bread and bear meat.



A HUNTER'S CABIN

From *Porte Crayon's  
Virginia Illustrated.*



From *History of the  
Middle New River Settlements.*

Courtesy of  
D. C. Johnston.

TYPES OF PIONEER CABINS

In 1712 or 13, Major Joshua Wynne was killed by Indians supposed to be of the Five Nations.

In 1713, a negro belonging to Capt. Robert Hicks was killed by Indians supposed to belong to the Five Nation.

In 1713 a party belonging to the Five Nations attacked and plundered a company of Virginia traders at the Enoe River.

*Minutes of Provincial Council of Pennsylvania*, Volume 3, page 11.

Henry Gannett in his "Gazeteer of Virginia" (U. S. Geological Survey, 1904), does not give the Enoe River, but it is probably a small tributary of the Roanoke River in Halifax, Brunswick or Pittsylvania county, Va.

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#### THE INDIAN ROAD.

The Court orders, deeds and survey books of Augusta county, Virginia, contain many references to the Indian Road, but they are indefinite and the exact location of the road is left uncertain. The road in question was the war-path of the Iroquois Indians in their incursions against the Catawba Indians of Western North Carolina.

The general direction of this road is given in Morgan's "*League of the Iroquois*," a very rare work, a copy of which is filed in the Library of Congress. This road or path as described in the work mentioned started in Central New York, which was the home of the Iroquois Tribes. It came down the eastern branch of the Susquehannah River to a point near present Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. From this point, it proceeded in a westerly direction until the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania was reached, and down that Valley to present Williamsport, Maryland, where it crossed to Potomac River. From Williamsport, the road came on to the present City of Winchester, Virginia. A short distance southwest of Winchester the road separated and one branch went over to the present Front Royal, Warren County, Va., and then up the south or main River of Shenandoah, passing present Luray



in Page county, Va., and Port Republic in the present county of Rockingham.

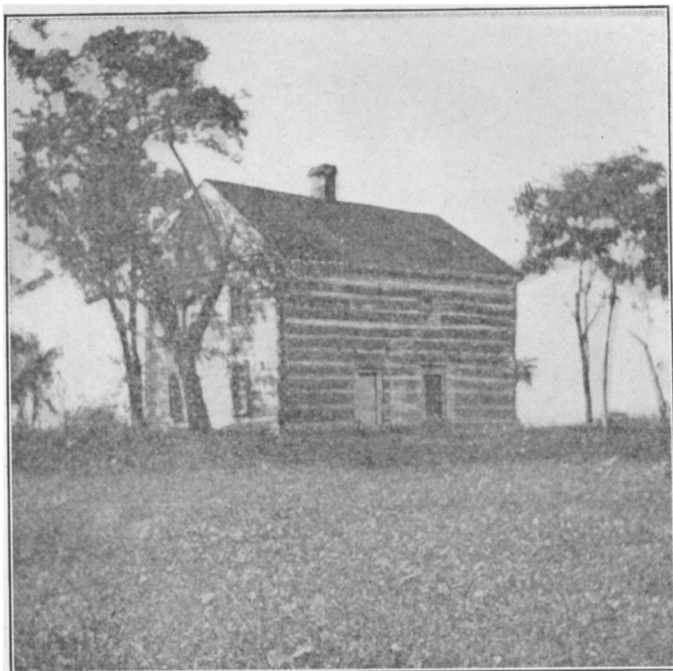
The main road continued up the Valley, following closely the line of the present Valley Turnpike until a point at or near Lacy Spring in the present county of Rockingham was reached. There the road turned to the left and the present Keezletown Road in Rockingham county was the route, passing through the villages of Keezletown and Cross Keys. About three and one-half miles southwest of Cross Keys the road again turned to the left and the present road leading to Beard's Ford was followed. The road crossed North River at Beard's Ford; Middle River just below Mt. Meridian in Augusta county, Va., and then the present road from Mt. Meridian was followed to a point about two and one-half miles southwest of New Hope, Va. Again the road turned to the left and the present road passing through the villages of Hermitage and Fishersville, in Augusta county, Va., became the route. From the place last named, the road led past Tinkling Spring Church to the Valley of the South River, where the two roads or trails again united. The road went up the South River in Augusta county, Va., passed over into the Valley of the South River in Rockbridge county and down that valley to the James River. The road also passed through present Botetourt and Roanoke counties, crossed the Blue Ridge through the water gap of the Roanoke River, and leaving Henry county, Va., to the left finally reached the Catawba Towns in Western North Carolina.

Deeds from the Craigs, Crawfords and other families prior to the Revolution who lived in the vicinity of Mt. Meridian, Va., which are recorded at Staunton, refer to the Indian Road.

In 1772, James Kerr entered 400 acres of land. His home was near the present Village of New Hope, and Round Hill and the Indian Road are both mentioned by Thomas Lewis in his entry book.

Round Hill is today the most prominent natural object in New Hope, Va.

The foregoing describes with accuracy the old Indian Road through Virginia; but changes in the road were made several



From *West Virginia  
Historical Magazine*.



TYPES OF PIONEER CABINS

times by the Indians. The Governors of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia had a conference with the Six Nations of New York at Lancaster, Pa., June 22, 1744, which continued until July 4, 1744. Apparently before the treaty of Albany made by Governor Spotswood with the Five Nations in 1722 the road of the Iroquois to the South was on the Eastern side of the Blue Ridge. The Indians stated at the Lancaster Conference that at the request of the Governor of New York they had changed the route in order to comply with Governor Spotswood "a good deal more to the West". They also stated that the whites did not comply with the agreement as to the road, "but came and lived on our side of the Hill", meaning the Blue Ridge. They also stated that they encountered difficulties with the whites with reference to the "new road", and had again changed it to the west, and that it was then at the foot of the Great Mountains and that they could not locate it farther to the west because "the country was absolutely impassable to man or beast". This shows that the Indian Road in 1744 was at the eastern foot of the Alleghany or North Mountains. They wanted the use of the old road, the course of which is described in the note and kind treatment on the part of the people who lived on it and which was guaranteed to them by the Virginia Commissioners at the Treaty of Lancaster, 1744. See Colden's *History of the Five Nations*, pp. 151-2, &c.

Parkman, in his *Conspiracy of Pontiac*, Vol. I, p. 7, gives the synonymous names for the Five Nations. Among them for the Senecas he gives Chenandoanes and Jenantowanos. The name first stated is a closer approximation to Shenandoah than many of the English variants of the name of that river. In a deed recorded at Staunton, Va., land is described as lying on the "north branch of the Jenantowano run", and this land is on the north river of the Shenandoah, the stream which for many miles is the dividing line between Rockingham and Augusta counties, Virginia. This deed was executed June 4, 1760, and clearly shows the visits of the Senecas to the Valley of Virginia after the settlement of the country by the white race.

## EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN THE VALLEY.

There is some evidence tending to show that white settlements existed in the Shenandoah Valley prior to 1717. On July 18, 1717, Sir William Keith, Lieutenant-Governor of Pennsylvania, and a number of the Council of that Colony, held a conference at Conestoga, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, with the Mingo or Conestoga Indians of that province, the substance of which was as follows: The Indians desired to know what "Christians were settled in the woods *behind* Virginia and Carolina". (Writer's italic). To this the Governor replied that they (the Indians) had full knowledge of the settlements in Maryland, Virginia and Carolina; that these settlements had nations of Indians under their protection to whom they furnished goods, and these settlers in turn were furnished with merchandise by their respective Governments. (*Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania*, Volume 3, page 8).

The question turns upon the fair construction to be placed upon the language of the Indians as reported. "Behind the woods" clearly implies remoteness from the older permanent settlements; and, since the "woods" in Eastern Virginia then as now extended to the top of the Blue Ridge, there is a strong historical probability that white settlements had been made in the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley prior to 1717.

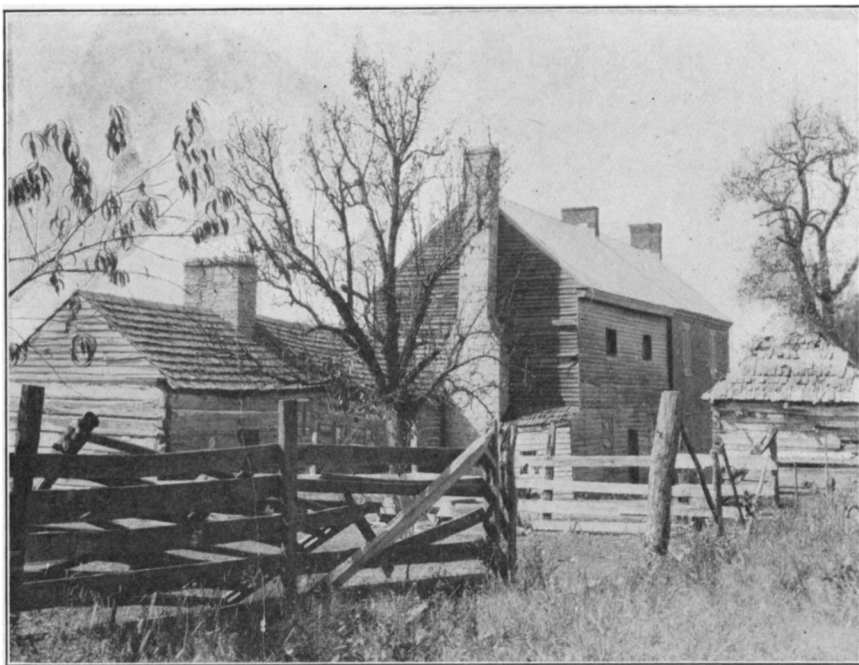
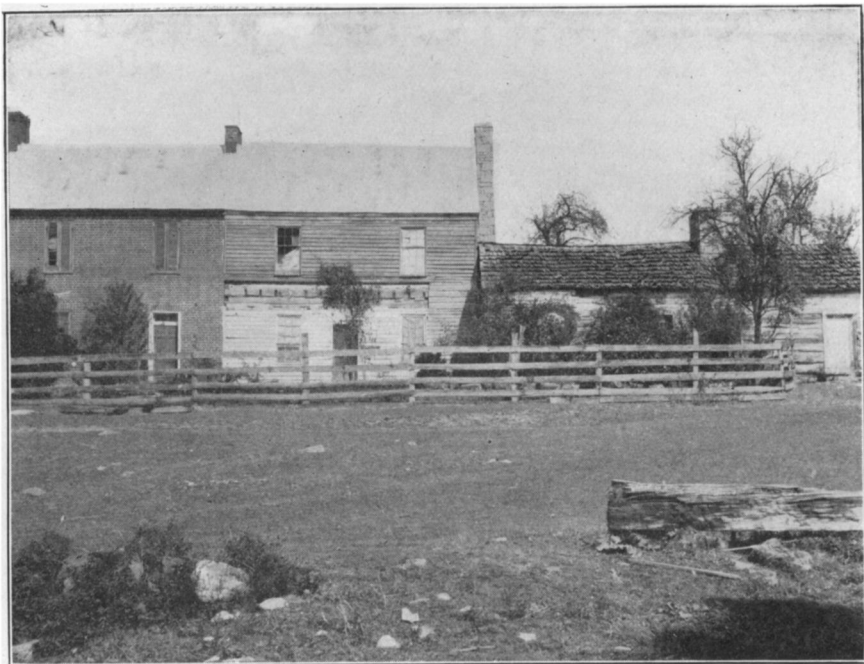
The evidence is clear that this section was fairly well known to the people of Virginia and Maryland as early as 1712; that the county was almost entirely free from Indian inhabitants, and consequently the inducements to settle in this fertile section were very strong.

As early as 1710-12 German immigrants had settled in the

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The Laird house, 3 miles east of Keezleton and 8 miles east of Harrisonburg, Rockingham county. The land was granted to Henry Winns, of Orange county, 1747, and conveyed to James Laird, Sr., in 1760.

The cabin on the left (in the upper picture) is the "improvement cabin", built in 1744 or 1745 to obtain the patent. The second house was built by James Laird, Sr., in 1761 or 1762.



TYPES OF VALLEY HOUSES

THE LAIRD HOUSES NEAR KEEZLETOWN.

Monacacy Valley around the site of present Frederick, Maryland. (See the *Centenary Sermon of Rev. Zacharias*, 1847; *Butler's History of Maryland*, pp. 51-52, 61-62).

This settlement was evidently one of those concerning which the Indians made inquiry. The present site of Frederick, Maryland, was then certainly "Behind the woods"—far to the rear of the older settlements as they then existed in that colony, and it was also on the west side of the Catoctin Mountains; and from that place it was only a short day's journey to the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley at the present Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

Again the question recurs: Did the language of the Indians "Behind the woods" mean west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia? Rev. James R. Graham, D. D., of Winchester, Va., in his valuable work, "The Planting of Presbyterianism in the Lower Shenandoah Valley" (1904), quoting from the records of the Synod of Philadelphia, shows that there was a settlement of Presbyterians "at Potomac" in Virginia in 1719, but authorities differ as to the site of this place. Dr. Graham strongly holds the view that Shepherdstown, West Virginia, was the place, and his conclusion is strengthened by the Council Order cited.

There were only two places in Virginia which at that time, 1717, correspond in any degree to the description of these settlements as given by the Indians. These were Fort Germanna, then in Essex County, and Fort Christiania, in the present county of Brunswick. Both of these places were certainly in the woods, but in no sense "Behind the woods", because unbroken forest extended in their rear to the top of the Blue Ridge.

The fact that there was a settlement at Frederick, Maryland, as early as 1712 gives almost historical certainty to the conclusion that a permanent settlement of whites had been made in the northern portion of the Shenandoah Valley prior to 1717. White men were then visiting the South Branch Valley of the Potomac in numbers at that time, at least thirty miles west of Shepherdstown, West Virginia; the county was well known

and all the evidence tends strongly to indicate that the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley contained one or more permanent white settlements as early as 1717.

This note is written with reserve, and the reader will so understand. It is prepared with the hope that some investigator of the Maryland and Virginia records may find evidence to make this historical probability a certain fact.